APPENDIX: Claims as pending

1. (twice amended) A transgenic rodent whose genome comprises a stably integrated DNA sequence encoding a syndecanoperably linked to a promoter, wherein expression of the DNA sequence results in the rodent developing maturity onset obesity.

3. (twice amended) The rodent of claim 1 wherein the DNA sequence encodes syndecan - 1.

4. (twice amended) The rodent of claim 1 wherein the syndecan is expressed in the areas of the hypothalamus responsible for the regulation of body weight and energy balance.

5. (amended) The rodent of claim1 where the promoter is a cytomegalovirus promoter or functional portion thereof, and the CMV intermediate/early enhancer.

6. (amended) The rodent of claim 1 having the genotype FVB/N-TgN(synd-1).

10. (twice amended) A method for screening for compounds which can alter body weight comprising:

administering a compound to a transgenic rodent whose genome comprises a stably integrated DNA sequence encoding a syndecan operably linked to a promoter, wherein expression of the DNA sequences results in the rodent developing maturity onset obesity, and

observing whether there is a change in body weight over a period of time.

13. (twice amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the syndecan is expressed in the areas of the hypothalamus responsible for the regulation of body weight and energy balance.

14. (amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the promoter is a cytomegalovirus promoter or functional portion thereof, and the CMV intermediate/early enhancer.

15. (amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the rodent has the genotype FVB/N-TgN(synd-1).